

Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final
Chesham United 1, Wycombe Wanderers 3 (aet)

By SHANE MCGARVEY

ALAN Phillips found an "Emlyn Hughes" touch at the Meadow on Saturday to put Wycombe Wanderers on the road to the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup final.

An all-Bucks final was already on the cards since Chalfont St Peter beat Berkshire side Wokingham just under three weeks ago, but it took Chesham United and Wycombe 120 minutes to decide who the other finalists would be.

United had the ball in

the Blues' net within six minutes of the kick off. Pete Johnson's free kick was nodded on by Gordon Taylor for young Kerry Dixon to knock home but the effort was ruled out for offside.

And for the next 84 minutes neither side could make any headway. Chesham were sound in defence but their finishing was so often ineffective, as was Wycombe's.

Tony Horseman might have decided the issue nine

minutes from half time but as he tried to get past Johnson he was held back, an offence for which the Chesham defender was cautioned.

But in extra time it all happened. A speculative ball was knocked up through the middle and, with Bobby Peck and Laurie Cole to cover, it didn't seem that Derek Harris had much hope of getting it. But Peck let the ball go and Harris, an Amersham schoolteacher, lobbed the ball over Cole's head.

Four minutes later United were back when Dixon got up to head home substitute Bernie Mapp's corner kick, but seconds before the end of the first half of extra time, Phillips provided the hammer-blow.

He collected the ball on the left side of the park and from 35 yards out, floated in a cross. It went too far for his forwards but deceived Cole who stuck out a hand, merely helping the ball on its way to the back of the net.

Manager John Reardon called it: "a touch of the Emlyn Hughes's" — referring to the Liverpool captain's identical goal against Benfica last week.

However you like to describe it, the goal took the wind out of United and it was a mere formality when, two minutes from time, Peck beat his own goalkeeper.

Horseman had tried a flick at the far post and Cole had the ball, which was going wide anyway, covered. That is until Peck, in his anxiety to see the ball to safety, stuck out a boot to put it in his own net.

United had to play the last 13 minutes with 10 men. They had used both substitutes before defender Peter Denham was carried off with an injured foot after a clash with Wycombe's Richard Strong.

Chesham: Cole, Denham, Ayling, Johnson, Peck, Taylor (Mapp 90), Atkins, Morris (McCarthy 63), Beaven, Tanski, Dixon.

Wycombe: Maskell, Birdseye, Strong, Mead, Phillips, Priestley, Mackenzie, Holifield, Harris, Kennedy, Horseman, subs: Day and Evans.



TONY Horseman jumps for joy, on his way to yet another Senior Cup final. And Bobby Peck has the look of a man who's just scored an own-goal